

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A bearing apparatus for a vehicle driving wheel comprising:

a double row rolling bearing;

a wheel hub integrally formed with a wheel mounting flange at one end and having a cylindrical stepped portion of smaller diameter axially extending from the other end of the wheel hub;

an inner ring fitted on the stepped portion of the smaller diameter of the wheel hub, said inner ring being secured on the wheel hub through a caulked portion formed by plastically deforming the end of the stepped portion radially outwardly;

an outer joint member having a shoulder adapted to be abutted to the end surface of the caulked portion and a stem portion axially extending from the shoulder, the outer joint member being inserted in the wheel hub via a serration fitted portion to attain a detachable engagement with the wheel hub;

a pre-loading means formed in the serration fitted portion between the stem portion of the outer joint member and the wheel hub;

a fastening means for combining the wheel hub and the outer joint member, said fastening means including a fastener and a bore in said outer joint member for receiving said fastener; and

a releasing means adapted to be arranged on the wheel hub for removing the outer joint member from the wheel hub, said releasing means utilizing said bore for removing said outer joint member.

2. (Original) A bearing apparatus of claim 1 wherein the serration fitted portion is pre-loaded by providing the serration of the stem portion of the outer joint member with a helix angle of a predetermined angle relative to the axis of the stem portion.

3. (Previously Presented) A bearing apparatus of claim 1 wherein the outer end surface of the wheel hub is formed with an internal thread, and the wheel hub and the outer joint member are united using a plate having a circular aperture formed at a position corresponding to said internal thread and a central aperture formed with an internal thread, abutting the plate on said outer end surface of the wheel hub, and finally screwing a securing bolt into said internal thread formed in said shaft of the outer joint member through the central aperture of the plate.

4. (Withdrawn) A bearing apparatus of claim 1 wherein the releasing means includes a releasing jig formed with an external thread, and an internal thread engaging the external thread of the releasing jig formed on a pilot portion of the wheel hub.

5. (Withdrawn) A bearing apparatus of claim 1 wherein the outer end portion of the wheel hub is formed with an annular recess having a tapered internal circumferential surface, the annular recess receives a fastening member formed with a serration on its inner circumferential surface, and the diameter of the fastening member is reduced by screwing a securing bolt into an internal thread formed in the stem portion of the outer joint member.

6. (Withdrawn) A bearing apparatus of claim 5 wherein the fastening member is a split-ring having one slit on its circumference.

7. (Withdrawn) A bearing apparatus of claim 5 wherein the fastening member is formed as a plurality of circumferentially separated parts.

8. (Withdrawn) A bearing apparatus of claim 5 wherein a plurality of slits are formed on either the inner or outer circumferential surface of the fastening member.

9. (Original) A bearing apparatus of claim 1 wherein an elastic ring is fitted in an annular space formed between the end surface of the inner ring and the shoulder of the outer joint member, one end of a pulsar ring arranged on the shoulder of the outer joint member engaging the elastic ring.